

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3862
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
DUTY FREE IMPORT OF RAW JUTE AND JUTE GOODS .
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has allowed duty free imports of raw jute and jute goods from the beginning of this year;
- (b) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether such permission is in violation of Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 as alleged by local jute industry and trade circles;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any limit on import of such jute;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, whether it is likely to adversely affect the existence of domestic jute industry; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for protection the interest of domestic jute industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

- (a) & (b) The import duty on 'Raw jute' and other 'Jute goods' attracts 10% of general effective rate of basic Custom Duty. However, there is 'Nil' rate of basic Customs Duty on Import of these items from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal w.e.f. 1.1.2008.
- (c) No Sir. There is no correlation between import duty on jute and the provisions of Jute Packaging Material Act.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) & (f) There is no quantitative restriction on import of such jute.
- (g) & (h) No Sir. Yet the Government has taken a number of steps for the development of Jute Sector as a whole:-
 - (i) Govt. has approved the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) which aims at modernization of industry and increase the productivity so that the Jute can become a more vibrant sector.
 - (ii) Protection was been provided to Jute Industry through the JPM Act since 1987 for sustainable employment in jute industry.
 - (iii) Jute Board Bill, 2006 has been introduced in the Parliament to set up National Jute Board in order to achieve integrated and holistic development of jute sector.